National Policy on Education, sports and physical education were to be an integral part of education. The Conference recognised the need of broad-basing participation in sports and in extending the youth programmes more fully to the rural areas. It was felt that traditional games. sports and martial arts needed to be given due importance and that at the same time attention was required to be paid to the raising of sports standards also. It highlighted the need for paying attention to the need of women and tribals in the field of sports and youth programmes. The Conference agreed that the coverage of sports events by national media should be extended to the district level and more suitable hours alloted for such coverage. The Conference was unanimous that existing playfields had to be protected for sports purposes. There was a general feeling that inculcation of discipline if necesesary through legislation among national sports federations and states sports associations was necessary and concerned effort in this direction by the Centre, the States and the federations was required. There was a consensus that bringing sports on the concurrent list wou'd help achieve the desired result. Finally, the Conference recognised the value of exchange of idea through such conferences.

Deaths due to Sickle Cell Disease

886. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to a recent research a disease known as "sickle cell disease" has spread in a number of states in the country killing thousands of persons; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof stating the States affeced by the disease, the number of persons reported to have died as a result thereof and the measures taken by Government to control the spread of the disease and for effective treatment of the patients?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) and (b) Sickle cell disease is a public health problem, generally affecting the trible population. Limited surveys of different tribal groups have indicated frequencies of positive sicking between 2 per cent and 35 per cent in the areas surveyed. The disease has been noticed among some castes in Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and the neighbouring regions.

The straegy to control basically consists of early diagnosis and proper treatment which is being attended to by the concerned State Governments.

Victimisation of Officials responsible for delay in commissioning of Indira Gandhi International Airport Terminal

887. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain new facts have come to light regarding the delay in the Commissioning of the Indira Gandhi International Airport and it has been found that innocent officers have been victimised and made scapegoats for the lapses for which they were not responsible; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof stating the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Innocent officers have not been victimised or made scape-goats for the delay

in the commissioning of the new terminal at Delhi.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Education of Women in Rural Areas

888. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have chalked-out any new plan especially for the education of women in the rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, the broad outlines of the plan; and

(c) the funds allocated therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (c) The National Policy on Education, 1986 envisages education as an agent of basic change in the status of women. The National Education Policy states the following roles of education—The National Education System will play a positive, interventionist role in the empowerment of women;—It will foster the development of new values through re-designed curricula,—The policy of non-discrimination will be pursued vigorously to eliminate sex-stereo-typing in vocational and professional courses and to promote women's participation in non-traditional occupations:—Women's studies will be promoted as a part of various courses.

The removal of women's illiteracy and obstacles inhibiting their access etc., and retention in, eelmentary education and adult education will receive over-riding priority, through provision of special support services setting of time targets, and effective monitoring.

A programme of action is being prepared by the Department of Education, Minister of Human Resource Development to implement the new thrusts indicated in the New Education Policy. The details of the Plan will be available after approval of Programme of Action by Parliament.

Radioactive Traces in Air-India Flights

889. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

SHRI SHANKAR SINH VAGHELA:

Will the MINISTER OF TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Indian Express of 18th June, 1986 wherein it has been stated that Radio active traces have been found in Air India Flights arriving from the USSR;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whaht safety measures Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Radioactive fallout was detected first on the flight coming from Moscow on May 2, 1986 and thereafter it was detected on the New York-Bombay and Tokyo-Bombay flights as well.

(c) The level of radioactivity was small to warrant any special measures.